

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners,

I am greatly disappointed by the lack of informative television programming, not to mention the garbage programming that has taken over in the last 3 years.

Local public affairs programming is virtually non-existent. Our democracy is at risk when many Americans don't know basic facts about the candidates or the issues, as was the case in the 2000 elections & when there is so little diversity visible in TV programming.

Since broadcasters have clearly failed in their obligation to serve the public interest, the FCC should define meaningful public interest requirements that include local civic and electoral affairs programming.

As the elections approach, a well-functioning democracy demands that citizens have access to a diversity of opinions and voices on the choices confronting us.

I also believe that because the air-waves are a public good & belong to the Am. people, that 20 min./week should be given free to each local & national candidate. They should not have to pay for air-time for up to 20 min. a week, starting 6 weeks before the election. The stations pay the American People almost nothing for the use of their air-waves (& they misuse those air-waves dreadfully!) This is the way they can pay them back, by donating that time to candidates, which would help make our whole democracy more representative.

Sincerely,
Jeannine L. Chambers
Educator

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